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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	25X1A
SUBJECT	Town of Popovo	DATE DISTR.	31 December 1953	
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 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE:	[REDACTED]	25X1X
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1. Popovo (N 43-21, E 26-14), an okoliya center located 70 to 75 kilometers west of Shumen, has 6,000 to 7,000 inhabitants and controls 49 villages with a total of 70,000 to 75,000 inhabitants. Sixty to 65 percent of these are organized into collective farms (Trudovo Kooperativno Zemedelsko Stopanstvo). There are only seven or eight villages, including Golyamo Gradishte (W 43-28, E 26-03), where collective farms do not exist. These are populated by Bulgarians of Turkish origin who despite all the pressure exerted on them continue to work their land independently. They claim that 50 days of intensive work on their land yields more than 300 days of work on collective farms.
2. Popovo has one collective settlement of 200 families and one tractor station which serves the collective farms, the machinery being available to private farmers only during the harvest season and when not required by the collective farms. Payment to the tractor station is made by both private and collective farms in the form of a certain percentage of the yield.
3. The Popovo branch of the Cooperative Center employs 100 workers and is headed by a council consisting of a president, two assistants and six members, elected once a year by representatives from all the village cooperatives in the district. This council meets infrequently, the president and his assistants actually being responsible for the work. Prices paid to private farmers and to collective settlements for their agricultural products are identical.
4. The Popovo branch of the Cooperative Center has an egg storage capacity of 30 tons. The eggs are not stored for more than two or three days but they are exported immediately, in accordance with orders from the Center, to East and West Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Italy. Occasionally a small quantity of eggs from this district is exported to the USSR. In 1952

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approximately 7,250,000 eggs were collected at Popovo. Up to September 1953 about 7,000,000 eggs had already been collected and another million was expected by the end of the year. Poultry is sent to the cold storage plant at Pleven (N 43-25, E 24-36).

5. Industrial enterprises in the Popovo okoliya include two oil refineries, employing 30 to 40 men each, and one brick factory located one to two kilometers north of Popovo, employing 150 to 200 workers.
6. There are two secondary schools in Popovo, a boys' school occupying a new 3-story building, and a girls' school housed in a 1-story building. There are two or three elementary schools which occupy 1-story buildings.
7. The Popovo district has only one hospital, established in about 1949. It is housed in a 1-story building and has a staff of eight or ten physicians. The dispensary of the district occupies one room and has one physician.
8. A 2-story building in the center of the town houses the post office, the telegraph and the telephone exchange. The police force consists of 15 to 20 policemen. There is one small power station. The railroad station, on the Sofia-Varna line, was erected in about 1947 and has four or five tracks.
9. A department of the Ministry of Agriculture has an okoliya office in Popovo which is headed by Penev (fmu), an agronomist. This office has a staff of 27 persons, consisting of 11 agronomists and their assistants, and a small laboratory with one agronomist. The staff members tour all the villages in the district and make visits to the surrounding farms, giving general information and practical instruction to both cooperative and private farmers. The agronomists draw a monthly salary of 600 leva; their assistants get 450 to 500 leva.

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